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S E C R E T THE HAGUE 002352

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STATE FOR ISN, EUR/UBI

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TAGS: [PARM](#) [NL](#)

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS: RESPONSE TO DEMARCHE ON UNSCR 1718
CONVENTIONAL ARMS OBLIGATIONS

REF: STATE 180512

Classified By: Acting DCM Andrew Schofer, reasons 1.4 (b,d)

¶1. (S) Polmiloff discussed reftel points with MFA Head of Nuclear Affairs and Non-proliferation Henk van der Kwast on November 1. Van Der Kwast appreciated the points, noting that the GONL would live up to its UNSCR 1718 obligations. He labelled North Korea's decision to return to the six-party talks as "encouraging," and said A/S Hill's "perfectly balanced" statement was both forward-leaning, but appropriately reserved while stressing implementation of the September 2005 joint statement on a denuclearized Korean peninsula.

¶2. (S) Van der Kwast said the GONL remains concerned of linkage between North Korea and Iran, and described EU Secretary-General Solana's negotiations with Iran as

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"disastrous," and "high on theater." While the North Korean proliferation case was obviously important, how the international community responds to Iran will be even more crucial, as Iran remains a part of the non-proliferation regime. On that note, he said he had been demarched by the local Pakistani embassy on the U.S.-Indian nuclear cooperation agreement and its affect on the NPT.

¶3. (S) Nevertheless, van der Kwast said the GONL would like to be more actively involved on the margins of the six-party talks. He suggested the GONL had been closely involved in Japan's initial pursuit of a statement by the UN 1st Committee on Disarmament and Security as a means to broaden the number of states condemning North Korea's nuclear test beyond the Security Council, while at the same time forcing some members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to confront North Korea. He acknowledged the Netherlands is actively reviewing its trade policy with North Korea, some 27 million euros in mostly agricultural products.

¶4. (U) Van der Kwast will participate in a conference at the Stimson Center in Washington on November 15. He plans to accompany MFA Head of Security Affairs Robert de Groot on USG official calls, and appreciated any assistance in obtaining meetings at State.

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